

it may still be an open question.

Skinner is a very fine man.

Darwin, on account of his health has to ~~leave~~ leave away from London, and seclude.

I give ~~no~~ letters to him - least of all to a lively, inquisitive Yankee, like Beecher, who would give him a fit of dyspepsia at once, from mere excitement. Besides Beecher would put him into one of his letters, to gratify public curiosity.

Jane is much debilitated, but bright - sends much love.

I have the Imperial Academy of Sciences of St. Petersburg honorary membership - quite a feather, as they are choice & few. Diploma just came.
Ever Yours Always

Cambridge, July 6, 1883
Dear Grace

Yours of 20th ult. came just in the midst - just as Jane was M for N. H. and I getting ready to go to her aid. We came back only on Thursday - or rather Friday Morning. My hands so full that I could not write to Darwin - to whom I owe a long letter till to-night. I will now enclose your note.

It would be very like a chemist to think that external influences will explain every thing. - But I presume he believes that

Peccantia are heritable.

If he does, then he
thinks he can explain,
or will be able to explain;
the origination of variations,
I cannot. That is, to any
extent, and do not expect
to.

When he will show
us how external influences
actually worked to change
a peach into a nectarine,
~~it will be done~~ I will
consider his proposition.

If he means by "ex-
ternal influences" - whatever
has brought about the change,
very well. - I, of course,
allow that every ~~physical~~
~~effect~~ variation has a
cause - a physical cause,
- But it seems to me you
may as well say that

conception and the
production of a normal
offspring is the result of
"external influences"; as
that the production of
an abnormal (variant)
offspring.

But there is no use
writing at random -

You ask me whether
I adhere to my previous
views expressed with out
at all showing me how
they have been impugned.

I should rather expect
Guyot to endorse Beaumont,
- a theological bias would
act strongly.

But I rely most on Lartet,
Boule, & Pictet, for
the age of the deposit. Let